Groundnut in Shell **Sunflower Seed**

Country	Yield (Kg. Hectare)	Country	Yield (Kg. Hectare)
India	894	India	617
China	2958	Russian Federation	1181
Nigeria	1020	Ukraine	1283
United States	3249	Argentina	1926
Indonesia	2042	China	1705

Source: FAO Website.
*Corresponds to Agriculture Year 2004-05.

Grameen Bhandaran Yojana

413. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have started a scheme called Grameen Bhandaran Yojana for construction of rural godowns in the country;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives of the above scheme;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government are not going to extend any financial assistance or otherwise to rural individuals or corporations, etc; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not extending financial assistance to rural individuals or corporations who wish to construct godowns in the rural areas for grain storage purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has launched a Central Sector Scheme namely, "Grameen Bhandaran Yojana", a Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Renovation of Rural Godowns *w.e.f.* 01.04.2001.

(b) The aims and objectives of the scheme include creation of scientific storage capacity with allied facilities in rural areas to meet the requirements of farmers for storing farm produce, processed farm produce and agricultural inputs; promotion of grading, standardization and quality

control of agricultural produce to improve their marketability; prevention of distress sale immediately after harvest by providing the facility of pledge financing and marketing credit; strengthen agricultural marketing infrastructure in the country by paying the way for the introduction of a national system of warehouse receipts in respect of agricultural commodities stored in such godowns and to reverse the declining trend of investment in agriculture sector by encouraging private and cooperative sectors to invest in the creation of storage infrastructure in the country.

(c) Rural individuals, corporations, farmers, Group of farmers/growers, Partnership/Proprietary firms, Non-Government Organizations (NGO's) Self Help Groups (SHGs), Companies, Cooperatives, Federations, Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees, Marketing Boards and Agro Processing Corporations in the entire country are eligible for financial assistance under the Scheme for Construction of rural godowns. Assistance for renovation of rural godowns is, however, restricted to godowns constructed by cooperatives only.

(d) Does not arise.

NCF Recommendations on MSP

414. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the suggestions made by the National Commission on Farmers (NCF) to extend the Minimum Support Price (MSP) Programme to all crops to provide income security to small farmers;

(b) whether there are other suggestions also by the NCF like market risk stabilization fund jointly by State and Central Governments, expanding the scope of agricultural insurance policies etc.;

(c) whether Government are considering actively the suggestions made by the NCF to protect the small farmers; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The National Commission on Farmers has, in its Fourth Report, recommended, *inter-alia,* that the scope of